

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/916,268

Docket No.: 10016243-1

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Canceled)
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, comprising qualifying each of the plurality of peer computers as either available, not available, or incompetent to handle the job request.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, further comprising using intelligent agents residing on one or more of the peer computers for providing communications between said one or more peer computers and additional processing therebetween.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the job request relates to any one of: regression testing, functional testing, compatibility and standards testing and performance testing.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, further comprising characterizing the job request and forwarding the job request to one of a chosen plurality of sub-broker modules to dynamically reconfigure one of said peer computers to enable said one peer computer to handle the job request.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the plurality of sub-broker modules includes any one of a patch queue sub-broker module, a pre-release sub-broker module, a command sub-broker module and a libc sub-broker module.
7. (Canceled)

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8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, comprising maintaining any one of a free peer pool list, an in-progress peer pool list and a waiting peer pool list.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, comprising indicating the availability of the peer computers in the free peer pool list.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, comprising removing a peer computer from the free peer pool list and adding the computer to the in-progress peer pool list during execution of the job request.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein a peer computer is selected and prepared by a global peer processing unit.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, comprising returning a peer computer to the waiting peer pool list and qualifying the peer computer to be placed on the free peer pool list.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, comprising determining whether the job request can be handled by said one peer computer, and if necessary, assigning two or more peer computers to handle the job request.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 27, wherein the sub-broker modules include a patch queue sub-broker, a pre-release sub-broker, a command sub-broker and a libc sub-broker.

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17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 27, wherein said job request is received by said broker.

18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 27, wherein each of said sub-brokers is associated with one of the peer computers among said plurality of peer computers.

19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 17, wherein any of said peer computers can become the broker.

20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 17, wherein the broker has a master queue processing unit including an incoming request queue, an in-progress request queue and a completed request queue.

21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 27, wherein said dynamic allocation includes load balancing.

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein load balancing includes forming peer pairs.

23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 27, wherein each of the sub-brokers is in communication with the other sub-brokers.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, wherein two peer computers share

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the job request.

25. (Previously Presented) A method of dynamically allocating a job request in a network comprising a plurality of peer computers, a broker module maintaining a plurality of available peer computers capable of processing the job request, and a plurality of available sub-broker modules capable of scheduling and monitoring the progress of the job request on one or more of said peer computers, the method comprising:

submitting the job request to the broker module;

selecting an available peer computer qualified to process the job request and one of said sub-broker modules capable of scheduling and monitoring the job request on said available peer computer;

submitting the job request and the selected peer computer to said sub-broker module;

scheduling the job request on the selected peer computer and monitoring the progress thereof; and

indicating the availability of the selected peer computer to the broker module upon the completion of the job request.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein one of said intelligent agents permits said sub-broker module to determine whether to subdivide the job request into more than one related job requests.

27. (Previously Presented) A system for dynamically allocating a plurality of job requests in a network comprising a plurality of peer computers, and a plurality of modules executable on one or more of said peer computers to process the job requests, comprising:

a plurality of sub-broker modules capable of scheduling the job requests on one or more of said peer computers and monitoring the progress thereof; and

a broker module for maintaining a list of the peer computers currently available and capable of processing one of said job requests, said broker module selecting one or more of said available peer computers qualified to process said job request, and one or more of said sub-

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broker modules capable of scheduling said job request on the selected peer computers and monitoring the progress thereof,

wherein said one or more sub-broker modules indicate the availability of the selected peer computer to the broker module upon the completion of the job request.

28. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein preparing comprises installing an operating system release and test source based on the submitted request.

29. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein preparing comprises installation of the latest operating system version and the latest version of the test source in response to a submitted request.

30. (New) The system of claim 27, wherein said broker module is configured to prepare peer computers by installing an operating system release and test source based on said job request.

31. (New) The system of claim 27, wherein said broker module is configured to install the latest operating system version and the latest version of the test source in response to said job request.